

**Amendments to th Claims:**

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

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**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) ~~An apparatus, characterized in that it is a A~~  
 10 ~~disk rotating apparatus that comprises comprising:~~

~~an axis of rotation~~ a rotating shaft that holds and rotates a disk selectively  
~~so that it can be inserted~~ mounted and removed therefrom ~~as needed and which~~  
~~rotates said disk around said disk axis,~~ and in that it has

an air-bearing device means, which has having a smooth surface facing  
 15 ~~the a~~ surface of said disk, ~~and wherein the a~~ gap between said smooth surface  
 and the said surface of said disk is 300 microns or smaller, ~~with and~~ said air-  
 bearing ~~means device~~ being constructed so that it can be moveable away  
 from said disk held by said ~~axis of rotation~~ rotating shaft.

20 2. (Currently amended) ~~An apparatus, characterized in that it is an~~  
~~apparatus that comprises comprising:~~

~~an axis of rotation~~ a rotating shaft that holds a disk selectively ~~so that it can~~  
~~be inserted~~ mounted or removed therefrom ~~as needed, which has:~~

a disk rotator ~~ing means~~ that rotates said disk around said ~~disk axis of~~  
 25 ~~rotation~~ rotating shaft; and

a positioning means that positions ~~the a~~ head with respect to said disk,  
 and ~~which performs an~~ information recording and/or information reproduction by

operation of said disk by said head<sub>1</sub>; and in that it has

an air-bearing device means, which has having a smooth surface facing  
 at the surface of said disk<sub>1</sub>, and wherein the a space between said smooth surface  
 and the said surface of said disk is 300 microns or smaller, with said air-bearing  
 5 device means being constructed so that it can be separated from said disk  
 held by said ~~axis of rotation~~ rotating shaft.

3. (Currently amended) ~~An apparatus, characterized in that it is a~~ A  
 disk rotating apparatus that comprises:

10 ~~an axis of rotation~~ a rotating shaft that holds and rotates a disk selectively  
~~so that it can be inserted~~ mounted and removed ~~therefrom~~ as needed and which  
~~rotates said disk around said disk axis, and in that it has:~~

an air-bearing device means, which has having a smooth surface facing  
 the a surface of said disk<sub>1</sub>, and wherein the a space between said smooth surface  
 15 and the said surface of said disk is 300 microns or smaller<sub>1</sub>; and

a disk support means, which is a means that supports for supporting said  
 disk ~~with which~~ and for moving said disk is moved back and forth in the a  
 direction of axis of said ~~axis of rotation~~ rotating shaft while the said surface of said  
 disk is being supported.

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4. (Currently amended) ~~An apparatus,~~ characterized in that it is an  
 apparatus that comprises:

~~an axis of rotation~~ a rotating shaft that holds and rotates a disk so that it

~~can be selectively inserted mounted and removed therefrom as needed, which has a disk rotating means that rotates said disk around said disk axis and;~~

~~a positioning means that positions the head with respect to said disk, and which performs an information recording and/or information reproduction by operation of said disk by said head, and in that it has;~~

~~an air-bearing device means, which has having a smooth surface facing the a surface of said disk and wherein the a space between said smooth surface and the said surface of said disk is 300 microns or smaller; and~~

~~a disk support means, which is a means that supports for supporting said disk with which and for moving said disk is moved back and forth in the a direction of axis of said axis of rotation rotating shaft while the said surface of said disk is being supported.~~

5. (Currently amended) ~~An apparatus, characterized in that it is a A~~  
~~disk rotating apparatus that comprising:~~

~~an axis of rotation a rotating shaft that holds and rotates a disk so that it can be selectively inserted mounted and removed therefrom; as needed, and which rotates said disk around said disk axis, and in that it has~~

~~an air-bearing device means, which has having a smooth surface facing the a surface of said disk, and wherein the a space between said smooth surface and the said surface of said disk is 300 microns or smaller; and~~

~~a disk support means, which is a means that supports for supporting said disk with which said disk is moved and for moving said disk back and forth in the~~

a direction of axis of said axis of rotation~~rotating shaft~~ while ~~the said~~ surface and an end face of said disk are being supported.

6. (Currently amended) ~~An apparatus, characterized in that it is an~~ An apparatus that comprising:  
5

~~an axis of rotation~~ a rotating shaft that holds and rotates a disk so that it can be selectively inserted~~mounted~~ and removed therefrom~~as needed~~, which has a disk rotating means that rotates said disk around said disk axis and;

a ~~positioning~~ means that positions the a head with respect to said disk,  
10 and which performs an information recording and/or information reproduction by operation of said disk by said head, and in that it has;

an air-bearing device means, ~~which has~~ having a smooth surface facing at the surface of said disk, and wherein the a space between said smooth surface and the said surface of said disk is 300 microns or smaller; and

15 a disk support means ~~with which~~ for moving said disk is moved back and forth in the a direction of axis of said axis of rotation~~rotating shaft~~ while supporting the said surface and an end face of said disk.

7. (Currently amended) ~~An apparatus, characterized in that it is a~~ A disk rotating apparatus that comprising:  
20

~~an axis of rotation~~ a rotating shaft that holds and rotates a disk selectively so that it can be inserted~~mounted~~ and removed therefrom~~as needed~~ and which rotates said disk around said disk axis, and in that it has;

an air-bearing device~~means, which has having~~ a smooth surface facing  
 the a surface of said disk, ~~and wherein the a~~ gap between said smooth surface  
 and the said surface of said disk is 300 microns or smaller, ~~with~~ said air-bearing  
device ~~means~~ comprising a space for accessing the an end part of said disk, said  
 5 space being selected from a group consisting of such as an indentation, a cut-out  
 part, ~~or a~~ through-hole, and any combinations thereof etc.

8. (Currently amended) An apparatus, characterized in that it is an Amn  
 apparatus that comprises:

10 ~~an axis of rotation~~ a rotating shaft that holds and rotates a disk ~~so that it~~  
~~can be selectively inserted~~ mounted and removed therefrom ~~as needed, which has~~  
~~a disk rotating means that rotates said disk around said disk axis and~~;

a ~~positioning~~ means that positions at the head with respect to said disk,  
 and ~~which performs an~~ information recording and/or information reproduction ~~by~~  
 15 operation of said disk ~~by said head, and in that it has~~;

an air-bearing device~~means, which has having~~ a smooth surface facing  
 the a surface of said disk, ~~and wherein the a~~ space between said smooth surface  
 and the said surface of said disk is 300 microns or smaller, ~~with~~ said air-bearing  
device~~means~~ having a space for accessing the an end part of said disk, said  
 20 space being selected from a group consisting of such as an indentation, cut-out  
 part, a through-hole, ~~etc., and any combinations thereof~~ at the said surface facing  
 said disk.

9. (Currently amended) ~~An apparatus, characterized in that it is a~~ A disk rotating apparatus ~~that comprises~~ ing:

~~an axis of rotation~~ a rotating shaft ~~and which that~~ rotates ~~asaid~~ disk around said disk ~~axis of rotation~~ rotating shaft; ~~and in that it has~~

5 ~~an air-bearing means~~ device, ~~which has~~ having a smooth surface facing ~~at~~ the surface of said disk, ~~and wherein the~~ a gap between said smooth surface and ~~the~~ said surface of said disk is 300 microns or smaller; ~~and~~

~~a disk holder~~ ing means that can befor being selectively attached ~~to~~ mounted on and ~~removed from~~ demounted from said disk rotating apparatus ~~as needed, with said disk holding means being constructed so that it can be attached to~~ mounted on and removed from demounted from said disk rotating apparatus ~~as needed while still holding said disk.~~

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10. (Currently amended) ~~An apparatus, characterized in that it is an~~ apparatus ~~that comprises~~ ing:

15

~~an axis of rotation~~ a rotating shaft ~~that holds for holding~~ a disk so that it can ~~be selectively inserted~~ mounted and removed ~~therefrom~~ as needed, ~~which has a disk rotating means that rotates said disk around said disk axis and;~~

~~a positioner~~ ing means thatfor positionings the a head with respect to said disk; ~~and which~~ performings an information recording and/or information reproduction ~~by operation of said disk by said head, and in that it has;~~

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~~an air-bearing~~ device ~~means, which has~~ having a smooth surface facing ~~the~~ said surface of said disk, ~~and wherein the~~ a space between said smooth

surface and the said surface of said disk is 300 microns or smaller; and

a disk holder ~~ing means that can be~~ selectively attached to mounted on and removed from demounted from said disk rotating apparatus as needed, with said disk holding means being constructed so that it can be attached to mounted on and removed from demounted from said disk rotating apparatus as needed while still holding said disk.

11. (Currently amended) An apparatus, characterized in that it is a An disk operating apparatus that comprises

an axis of rotation a rotating shaft that holds and rotates a disk so that it can be selectively inserted mounted and removed therefrom as needed, which has a disk rotating means that rotates said disk around said disk axis and;

a positioning ~~ing means~~ that positions the said head with respect to said disk, and which performs an information recording and/or information reproduction by operation of said disk by said head, and in that it has;

an air-bearing device ~~means, which has~~ having a smooth surface facing the a surface of said disk, and wherein at the space between said smooth surface and the said surface of said disk is 300 microns or smaller, with said disk rotating apparatus being constructed so that it can be attached to mounted on and removed from demounted from said disk operating apparatus while still holding said disk.

1342. (Currently amended) The apparatus in any of claims 1 through 11,

further characterized ~~comprising~~ in that it has a movable ramp-type load mechanism for loading/unloading of a head[[s]].

1312. (Currently amended) An ~~apparatus, characterized in that it is an~~  
 5 apparatus that ~~comprising~~es:

~~an axis of rotation~~ a rotating shaft that holds and rotates a disk ~~so that it~~  
~~can be selectively inserted~~ mounted and removed therefrom as needed, which  
 has:

a disk ~~rotating~~ means that rotates said disk around said disk ~~axis of~~  
 10 ~~rotation~~ rotating shaft and:

a ~~positioning~~ means that positions ~~the~~ a head with respect to said disk,  
 and ~~which performs~~ an information recording and/or information reproduction by  
 operation of said disk by said head, and in that it has:

at least one air-bearing ~~device~~ means, ~~which has~~ having a smooth surface  
 15 facing ~~the~~ a surface of said disk, and wherein ~~the~~ a space between said smooth  
 surface and ~~the~~ said surface of said disk is 300 microns or smaller; and further,  
 a movable ramp-type load mechanism for loading/unloading of said heads.

14. (Currently amended) The apparatus ~~according to any of claims 1~~  
 20 ~~through 13, further characterized in that~~ in any of claims 1 through 12, wherein  
 said ~~axis of rotation~~ rotating shaft has a part thereof that engages with said disk,  
 with said engaging part having an engagement tolerance such that said disk  
 slides along said ~~axis of rotation~~ rotating shaft while maintaining ~~an almost a~~



substantially horizontal posture with respect to said air-bearing means.

15. (Currently amended) The apparatus ~~in any of claims 1 through 14,~~  
~~further characterized in that~~ in any of claims 1 through 12, wherein said air-  
 5 bearing ~~devicemeans~~ has a part thereof that faces ~~all or at least a part of the said~~  
 surface of said disk and a part continuous therewith ~~this~~ that protrudes from said  
 disk.

16. (Currently amended) The apparatus ~~in any of claims 1 through 15,~~  
 10 ~~further characterized in any of claims 1 through 12, wherein that the said~~ smooth  
 surface of said air-bearing ~~devicemeans~~ is selected from a group consisting of a  
 ring-shaped ~~or and~~ is a shape that envelopes a ring with a round hole on the  
 inside thereof.

17. (Currently amended) The apparatus ~~in any of claims 1 through 16 in~~  
 15 ~~any of claims 1 through 12, further comprising~~ characterized in that it also has a  
~~means that~~ an anchor for selectively temporarily anchorings the said axis of  
~~rotation~~ rotating shaft.